

August 5, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
445 12th Street SW, TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ultratec's Petition on CapTel - Docket 98- 67

As a person who has experienced CapTel, I am sending these comments to support Ultratec's petition to the FCC on the offering of CapTel service. I would like to tell you of the impact it has made on my ability to use the telephone.

I had the opportunity to use the CapTel service at the Ultratec exhibit booth at the DEAF WAY II conference in Washington, D.C. during the week of July 8 to July 13, 2002. The existence of the device was brought to my attention by one of the people manning the booth, and my impression of the service was profound, to say the least. There IS a big difference between using this CapTel service and that of the VCO (voice carry-over) part of the TRS relay service. Communication between me and the person that I called was very smooth, and my daughter at the other end made this simple comment: "It's a miracle!"

I am a profoundly deaf person, and am unable to make use of auditory impulses into my ears, whether naturally or via a hearing-aid device. People who know me well are accustomed to my speech pattern, and generally have no difficulty in following my spoken words over the telephone. The best part of the CapTel experience was that, finally, I could "see" what the person at the other end was saying, practically simultaneously, and I could respond by merely saying something into the telephone receiver!

In closing, CapTel should be recognized by the FCC as a reimbursable TRS service.

Sincerely,

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